

## **Moran Welcomes Pope Benedict XVI to the United States**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today attended a White House ceremony welcoming Pope Benedict XVI, leader of the Roman Catholic Church, to the United States. This is Pope Benedict's first visit to the U.S. since assuming the top position three years ago. Today also marks Pope Benedict's 81st birthday.

"At a time when America is polarized by partisanship, religion and economic status, the Pope's message of reconciliation and hope is more important than ever," Moran said.

"Democracy can only flourish, as your Founding Fathers realized, when political leaders and those whom they represent are guided by truth and bring the wisdom born of firm moral principle to decisions affecting the life and future of the nation," Pope Benedict said. "In our time, too, particularly in moments of crisis, Americans continue to find their strength in a commitment to this patrimony of shared ideals and aspirations."

The Pope arrived in the U.S. on Tuesday. His six-day trip will also include a visit to New York City.

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